

AACPS Graduation Requirements at a Glance

Students must attend high school for four years unless a pre-approved AACPS alternative is satisfied.

Minimum Credits Required for Graduation—26			
Core Academic Subjects	English	4.0	1 credit in <i>English 9</i> 1 credit in <i>English 10</i> 1 credit in <i>English 11</i> 1 credit in <i>English 12</i>
	Social Studies	3.0	1 credit in <i>History of the United States</i> 1 credit in <i>United States Government</i> 1 credit in <i>World History</i>
	Mathematics Students seeking admission to a University System of Maryland institution should review details of math elective requirements with a school counselor.	4.0	1 credit in <i>Algebra 1</i> 1 credit in <i>Geometry</i> 2 mathematics elective credits (<i>Algebra 2</i> for college completers) Students are required to take a rigorous math course each of the four years the student is enrolled. See the <i>AACPS Possible Math Course Sequence</i> chart in the <i>Mathematics</i> course section
	Science See <i>Magnet & Signature Program Requirements</i> , below	3.0	1 credit in <i>Biology</i> 2 laboratory science elective credits
Physical Education	1.0	0.5 credit of <i>Fitness for Life</i> 0.5 credit Physical Education Elective	
Health	1.0*	0.5 credit in <i>Health A</i> 0.5 credit in <i>Health B*</i> (beginning with the class of 2025)	
Basic Technology	1.0	<i>Global Technology Concepts</i> (Complete four 0.25 credit modules) or a full-year of one of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Foundations of Computer Science</i> • <i>AP Computer Science Principles</i> • <i>IB Computer Science</i> • <i>Honors Principles of Engineering</i> (Project Lead the Way schools) • <i>Honors Engineering Design and Development 1</i> (Project Lead the Way schools) 	
Fine Arts	1.0	Music, Art, Dance, and Theatre Arts courses	
Citizenship	0.5	0.5 credit in <i>Global Community Citizenship</i> (beginning with the class of 2023)	
Electives	7.5	Any electives that result in the successful completion of a Completer Program Pathway	

Completer Program Requirements

Students must choose and follow course selection for a Completer Program Pathway (*College Completer, Career Completer, or Dual Completer*)

Magnet & Signature Program Requirements

Magnet and Signature programs may require 3, 4, or 5 credits of Science and World Language.

Four Steps to Graduation

1

Earn a minimum of
26 Credits

2

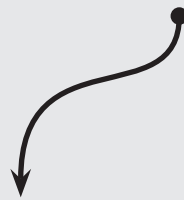
Complete
75 hours of Service Learning
in grades 5–11

3

Choose a
Completer Program Pathway

4

Take
State-mandated Assessments
in
Algebra
English
Government
Science



Completer Pathways

(See "Completer Program Pathways" on page 3)

College Completer

(post secondary education after high school)

Algebra 2



2 credits of
the same Language

Career Completer

(employment and/or post secondary education after high school)

A CTE Completer Program

(For a full list of programs, see "CTE Career Completer Programs" on page 114)

Dual Completer

(employment and/or post secondary education after high school)

Algebra 2



2 credits of
the same Language

and

A CTE Completer Program

Procedures for Promotion

Promotion from one grade level to the next is based on the number and types of credits earned.

To be promoted to grade:	10	11	12	To be considered a senior, a student must:	
Completed credits needed	6	13	18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have completed at least three years in high school, • have successfully earned 18 credits towards graduation requirements
<i>...in core academic subjects</i> <i>(English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies)</i>	3	7	10		<p><i>and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be enrolled in a program that allows them to meet all graduation requirements by June of the same academic year.

High School Graduation Requirements

World Languages Requirement

Students may elect to take two credits of a World Language rather than two credits of an advanced technology or a career completer program. A student with the required math courses and two credits of a World Languages meets one of the criteria for qualifying for the University System of Maryland completer. It is recommended that students who elect the World Languages option continue in the program beyond the second level. Some specialized programs, as well as many colleges and universities, require additional credits in World Languages. Check with your school counselor for next steps.

Service Learning Requirement

Service Learning provides students with a means to give back to their community in a meaningful way. MSDE requires students to complete 75 hours of Service Learning for graduation. Anne Arundel County Public Schools integrates this requirement into existing subjects or courses starting in grade 5. Students complete service-learning projects and activities from grades 5 through 11 so that each student, upon completion of grade 11, should have met the service learning graduation requirement.

Service Learning Implementation in AACPS

Students in grade 5 will complete service-learning projects through social studies activities for 5 hours.

Students in grades 6 through 8 will complete service-learning projects for 10 hours in each grade level for a total of 30 hours.

Students in grades 9 through 11 will earn the following service learning hours through service-learning projects in the following courses:

- U.S. Government: 10 hours
- Science (grade 10): 10 hours
- English 11: 10 hours
- Health: 10 hours

Seniors are not exempt from completing the service learning graduation requirement and will complete service learning hours based on a prorated schedule.

All students transferring into an Anne Arundel County public high school from a non-Maryland public school must complete 40 hours of service learning to meet the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) graduation requirement at the high school level. All students transferring into an Anne Arundel County public school from within the state of Maryland must have documentation for 40 hours of service learning from their previous school(s) or complete the balance for a total of 40 hours on a prorated scale:

- Grade 12 (2nd semester): 5 hours
- Grade 12 (1st semester): 10 hours
- Grade 11: 20 hours
- Grade 10: 30 hours

High School Credit Earned in Middle School

Maryland State Board of Education policy determines the requirements for students earning high school credit for a course taken in middle school. The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 13A.03.02.04) states that credit toward high school graduation may be earned by middle school students if the student has taken a high school level course meeting the local school system curricular objectives.

As a result, middle school students in Anne Arundel County Public Schools must earn a final passing course grade in order to earn high school credit for Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Levels 1 and 2 of American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, or Turkish taken while in middle school.

Additionally, according to AACPS Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 608 II-RA, credit will be awarded upon entering ninth grade. The grade for the course will be calculated in the student's GPA in the same manner as other high school courses, including courses with weighted grades. Failure to pass the course will result in a negative impact on a student's high school GPA. In the event that a student is struggling with the high school course and is not earning at least a C, the student and parent/guardian are encouraged to meet with the principal or designee to discuss appropriate options.

Students transferring into AACPS with high school credit from another district will have their course history evaluated by content coordinators to determine if AACPS will acknowledge/accept the credit.

Parents of students enrolled in the above-mentioned courses are asked to sign and return a letter to indicate their understanding of the above information.

Completer Program Pathways

Students are required to take a rigorous math course in each of the four years the student is enrolled in high school and to be enrolled in Algebra 2 or beyond during senior year for the College Completer.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that high school students enroll in courses that prepare them for post-secondary education, gainful employment, or both. These courses are offered at the high schools and both Centers of Applied Technology and are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education.

The three program completer pathway options are:

- College completer
- Career completer
- Dual completer

In addition to accumulating the required number of credits, students must meet the requirements of one of the following completer programs.

College Completer

The student pursues a sequence of courses in preparation for postsecondary education upon high school graduation. Minimum requirements include two years of the same World Language (UMD accepts American Sign Language) or two credits in advanced technology courses, and 4 high school math credits that must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

Each university or college institution has guidelines for evaluating applicants who have not completed all the required courses for admission. In some cases, students who lack a required course are permitted to take it their freshman year in college. In other instances, students are permitted to demonstrate their competency in a given field as an alternative to passing a required high school course. While these represent the minimum high school course requirements for entry into *University System of Maryland* institutions listed in the chart, individual campuses and programs may have additional admission requirements. Students should seek out these requirements by contacting the admissions director at the campus of choice.

Career Completer

The student pursues a sequence of courses to develop skills in preparation for employment and/or post-secondary education upon high school graduation. These courses and programs are offered at both Centers of Applied Technology and at the high schools through JROTC, Business Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology and Engineering Education, Career and Technical Education, and Signature (where available). These career completer programs are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education and

The University System of Maryland Required Coursework

Subject	Credits Required
English	4
Social Studies	3
Laboratory Science	3
Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Math Elective)	4
The same World Language	2
Academic Electives	6

The University System of Maryland Colleges and Universities

Bowie State University	University of Maryland:
Coppin State University	• Baltimore
Frostburg State University	• Baltimore County
Salisbury University	• College Park
Towson University	• Eastern Shore
University of Baltimore	• Global Campus

Anne Arundel Community College

In addition to the above University System of Maryland institutions, Anne Arundel County Public Schools enjoys an excellent working relationship with Anne Arundel Community College (AACC). AACC is an open door institution which admits those who may benefit from postsecondary education in both transfer and career programs. To help students succeed in college, AACC has established policies and procedures to evaluate and assess their academic abilities.

allow students to earn industry certifications and/or college credit while in high school. Please review the charts in the Career Completer Programs section (see “Career & Technology Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Choice—Benefits beyond the Diploma” on page 115) for connections between high school coursework and opportunities at Anne Arundel Community College.

Students can select from over 40 programs to gain a combination of technical and academic expertise that can be utilized for immediate employment or they can continue their education in colleges, universities, technical schools, or apprenticeship programs. For a full list of programs, see “CTE Career Completer Programs” on page 114.

Dual Completer

The student pursues courses that fulfill both College and Career Completer requirements.